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**From:** Knowles, Robert  
**Sent:** Thur 8/13/2015 9:09:06 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Utah Navajo - PH Messaging

Hey All,

The ATSDR R9 office talked to EPA Region 9 about this concern. We will contact Dean Penovich at UDOH and Charles Woodlee at IHS to discuss their concerns in more detail.

Thanks.

-Robert

CAPT Robert B. Knowles, M.S., REHS

Regional Director

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**Sent:** Thursday, August 13, 2015 11:23 AM

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**Subject:** RE: Utah Navajo - PH Messaging

Thank you Charles, very helpful.

I would respectfully ask ATSDR and Utah to comment on your question of further assistance ...

Ron

**Ron Pinheiro**

CAPT, US Public Health Service

ASPR Regional Administrator

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**From:** Woodlee, Charles David (IHS/NAV) [<mailto:Charles.Woodlee@ihs.gov>]  
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**Subject:** RE: Utah Navajo - PH Messaging

Good morning CAPT Pinheiro,

With regard to messaging on drinking water issues, the Navajo Area IHS has been deferring/referring those communications to the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority, which operates the public water systems AZ, NM, and UT on the Navajo Reservation. The NTUA has released several PSAs (<http://www.ntua.com/sanjuanriver2015.html>).

I spoke with Denise Becenti, PAO for NTUA (928-729-6221), and she stated that there had been some confusion about operation of PWSs and the availability of tanked water, but they were working to address those calls. I also spoke with the Navajo Nation ICP Liaison who had similarly been hearing of concerns in the UT area, and had staff in the field verifying if water tankers/points were available. I have asked NTUA to contact the Navajo Nation ICP to clarify NTUA's activities and status, as this information could then be shared with the Community Health Staff who are working in the area.

If you would like IHS to play a further intermediary role or consider a direct PSA, please reply.

Thank you and please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Charles.

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**Subject:** Utah Navajo - PH Messaging

Good morning,

On this morning's Utah State Coordination Call concerning the Gold King Mine Water Release, Patrick Reid (Utah DEM) stated that there are issues with consistent public health messaging concerning drinking water for the Navajo residing in Utah. I believe part of the issue is that response coordination for the Navajo is being addressed from Federal Region 9, via the EPA (Utah resides in Federal Region 8).

Patrick explained to me that San Juan County is 70% native American (Navajo), 30% non-native American. Of that 70%, it is estimated that 60% live on the reservation, while the rest reside in the county.

Is there a way in which ATSDR and IHS can assist Utah DOH and San Juan County in providing consistent public health messaging?

As always, thanks in advance!

Ron

**Ron Pinheiro**

CAPT, US Public Health Service

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